



TO: Senate

FROM: Joshua Abaki, SSMU VP University Affairs

SUBJECT: **International Students Taking French Courses**

MEETING DATE: 22nd September 2010

PREAMBLE: In the Principal's Taskforce on Student Life and Learning, McGill makes a commitment to provide opportunities for international students to learn French. The recently launched Principal's Taskforce on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement further recognizes that surrounded by a francophone population, our international students will need French to better integrate and engage with the community.

In this context, McGill continued to provide subsidized tuition rates for International students taking French courses even after the government withdrew the funding following tuition deregulation. For students taking French courses in the summer, however, this was not the case; and they were surprised to learn that they would be paying International tuition fees as opposed to the Quebec fees they had been anticipating. These students only learned of the change in fees after having registered in the courses.

QUESTION: When was the decision made to charge International tuition to International students taking French courses?

Which body made the decision to charge international tuition? Does the body have student representation?

Why was this information not communicated to students in a timely manner to allow them to plan ahead?

What measures did the University take over the summer to ensure that any students who had expected to pay Quebec rates were not precluded from the opportunity to learn French?

What measures have the University taken since then to inform students of the decision to charge International tuition rates?

How do the tuition increases fit in with McGill's commitment to help International students integrate and engage with the community?
